

REMARKS

Independent claims 1, 5, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodak DC240/DC280 in view of Park (U.S. 5,231,440) and further in view of Takahashi (U.S. 2003/0133034). Further, dependent claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodak in view of Park and further in view of Takahashi and Imaizumi et al. (U.S. 6,236,389). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the reasons discussed below.

Independent claim 1 is directed to an apparatus including a cropping means for (1) receiving a photographed image, cropping the photographed image, and generating a cropped image. The apparatus of claim 1 also includes a compression means for (2) receiving the same (i.e., un-cropped) photographed image, compressing the photographed image, and generating a compressed image. In addition, the apparatus of claim 1 includes a switching means for (3) selecting the cropped image generated from the photograph or selecting the compressed image generated from the (same) photograph, the selected image being enlarged by an enlargement means. The Kodak, Park, Takahashi, and Imaizumi references, or any combination thereof, fail to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features (1)-(3), as recited in independent claim 1.

The Examiner relies on Park for teaching the cropping means recited in claim 1 and relies on Takahashi for teaching the compression means and the switching means recited in claim 1. However, Takahashi teaches a compression circuit 29 which receives a signal (HD signal or SD signal) and has the ability to apply multiple compression modes to the received signal (see paragraphs [0067], [0068] and [0070]). Further, Takahashi teaches that a compression selection circuit 30 selects a compression mode to be implemented by the compression circuit 29 and receives the compressed signal from the compression circuits (see paragraph [0070], lines 13-15).

Thus, in view of the above, it is clear that Takahashi teaches that the compression selection circuit selects a compression mode to be implemented and receives the compressed signal, but does not disclose or suggest a switching means for selecting the cropped image generated from a photograph or selecting the compressed image generated from the (same) photograph, as required by claim 1. In other words, Takahashi's disclosure of selecting a single compression mode from a plurality of compression modes and only compressing the received signal according to the selected compression mode is

not a disclosure or suggestion of cropping a photograph, compressing the (un-cropped) photograph, and then selecting between the cropped and compressed photograph, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, it is clear that any obvious combination of the cropping means disclosed by Park and the compression circuit having the ability to implement a selected compression mode disclosed by Takahashi would not result in the invention of claim 1.

It is also noted that the Examiner partially relies on the disclosure in paragraph [0067] of Takahashi for teaching the switching means recited in claim 1. However, paragraph [0067] of Takahashi merely discloses an image pickup mode selection circuit 26 which receives an uncompressed HD signal from an HDTV camera and receives a down-converted version of the HD signal from a system conversion circuit 27. Thus, in view of the above, it is clear that Takahashi discloses receiving a HD signal and a down-converted signal, and selecting one of the received signals, but does not disclose or suggest the switching means for selecting the cropped image or selecting the compressed image, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, as mentioned above, it is apparent that any obvious combination of Park and Takahashi would not result in the invention of claim 1.

Further, it is noted that the above described configuration of claim 1 results in cropping (i.e., trimming away part of the original picture such that only a defined portion of the original image remains) and image compression, of the same photographed image. The image to be enlarged can always be selected from either the cropped image or the compressed image. It is noted that compressing (not instantaneous) an image takes longer than cropping (nearly instantaneous) the image. Thus, the above mentioned configuration results in an apparatus having the ability to reduce the amount of time required to view an enlarged image by providing an option to display a cropped or compressed version of the same image.

However, the purpose of the above-described features of Takahashi is to provide a device for obtaining the highest auto-focus characteristic based on a video signal in accordance with a signal standard before converting the signal to a specified standard (see paragraphs [0007], [0008], [0012], [0014], [0015], and [0016]). Thus, it is clear that the purpose of Takahashi is not to provide an apparatus having the ability to reduce the amount of time required to view an enlarged image by providing an option to display a cropped or compressed version of the same image, as required by claim 1. Therefore, it

is clear that it would not have been obvious to modify Takahashi to include a cropping means for cropping an image and allowing a selection between a previously cropped image and a previously compressed image.

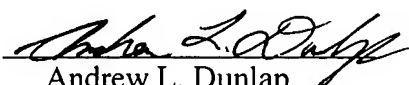
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Kodak, Park, Takahashi, and Imaizumi, individually, do not anticipate the invention as recited in independent claim 1. Furthermore, it is evident that any obvious combination of Kodak, Park, Takahashi, and Imaizumi would not result in the invention of independent claim 1. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kodak, Park, Takahashi, and Imaizumi so as to obtain the invention of claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom are clearly allowable over Kodak, Park, Takahashi, and Imaizumi.

Independent claims 5 and 9 recite an image enlarging method and an image enlarging apparatus, respectively, wherein the method and apparatus of claims 5 and 9 include limitations which correspond to the above-mentioned distinguishing features recited in independent claim 1 (e.g., cropping, compressing, and selecting). Thus, for reasons similar to those discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5-7 and 9-11 are allowable over Kodak, Park, Takahashi, and Imaizumi.

In view of the above remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance and an early notification thereof is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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